

...house for nearly a month earlier; there was no immediate suspicion. Farukh's parents, Daud and Asgari, grew worried after not seeing Taira and the girls for several days. Daud alerted the village head and Taira's father, Amir Ahmad, who informed Kandhla police station on Tuesday.

...out and ... next. When Sahreen woke up and came out, he strangled her. He dumped all three bodies into the pit and sealed it.

The couple's other children — Asmeen (10), Bilal (9) and Arshad (5) — slept through the night. The next morning, Farukh allegedly woke

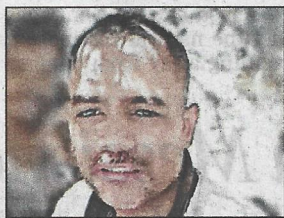
Rescued from Sudan, Odisha man recalls his journey to hell & back

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Bhubaneswar: A dim jail cell. Armed men at the door. A phone passed quietly at night. That was Adarsh Behera's world — until Monday. The 30-something mechanic from Jagatsinghpur district on Odisha's coast landed in Bhubaneswar Wednesday — free at last after weeks of captivity by Sudan's Rapid Support Forces, a Darfur-based paramilitary group, amid a grinding civil war.

Behera went to Sudan in Nov 2022 chasing stability for a seven-member family that survived on farming. A plastic manufacturing company in Al Fashir offered him work as a machine operator.

Fighting erupted in April 2023. Behera worked eight months before the factory shut. Bound by a three-year contract, he stayed back at the owner's request. "He expected the war to be over in two to three months," Behera said. Salary stopped, but food and water were supplied for a year. When even that ended,



Behera went to Sudan in Nov 2022

survival shrank to bread and biscuits. His wife Sasmita sold all her jewellery, sending Rs 2 lakh over a year to keep him alive. He decided on Oct 24 this year to move to a safer place. RSF fighters captured him, suspecting links to Sudan's army. "They assaulted me and kept me in a small room at Mina jail," he said. A guard showed mercy. A mobile phone. Five minutes a day to speak to his family.

His family knocked on every door. On Tuesday, International Committee of the Red Cross and the Indian embassy in Sudan secured Behera's release. By Wednesday, he was home. Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi thanked MEA and the embassy on X.

Turned away by B'luru hospitals, man dies of heart attack on road

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Bengaluru: A 34-year-old car mechanic fighting a heart attack rode pillion before dawn, was turned away from hospitals, collapsed on a flyover, and died as vehicles sped past without stopping.

Venkataramana woke at 3.30am Saturday with severe chest pain. His wife Roopa K put him on their scooter and rushed towards a private hospital in a nearby neighbourhood. They were told no doctor was available.

At a second private hospital close by, an ECG confirmed a heart attack. Still, no emergency treatment followed, Rupa said. No ambulance was arranged. They were told to go to Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, the city's premier govt heart hospital, several kilometres away.

At 4.21am, near Kadirenahalli bridge, Venkataramana clutched his chest. The scooter wobbled. The couple fell onto the road.

Roopa began waving at passing two-wheelers and cars. She begged for help. No one stopped. A pedestrian finally paused. Venkataramana's sister soon reached the spot and tried to flag down vehicles. Nearly seven minutes later, a car halted. By then, Venkataramana had lost consciousness. His sister attempted CPR as they rushed him to hospital. Doctors declared him dead on arrival.

VEHICLES PASS BY

Roopa demanded that action be taken against hospitals that fail to provide emergency care or arrange transport, and alleged her husband may have been neglected because of their financial condition. "He wanted to live. That is why he kept riding despite the pain," she said.

Even in grief, she chose compassion. Venkataramana's eyes were donated. "Please help when someone is in distress. A few minutes can mean the difference between life and death," Roopa said.

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